



## *Eighth Annual “Hands Around The Courthouse” Marks Child Abuse Prevention Month*



*Photo courtesy Helen O'Neal*

*Courthouse Plaza, April 17—* With the weather cooperating on a brilliantly sunny day, a rainbow of tulips in ebullient bloom, and the parchment-white crab trees in full flower, the **Youth Services Network Panel** (YSNP) staged the 8th annual *Hands Around the Courthouse* to the largest crowd in recent memory (according to a seasoned observer). As in past years, the

speakers included **Jeff Campbell**, of Children's Home, State's Attorney **Jerry Brady** and both Juvenile Court Judges as well as other luminaries, such as our very own **Pam Perrilles**.

Jeff opened the event by reminding attendees of the continuing plague of child abuse in Peoria County and went on to explain the mission of the YSNP in bringing

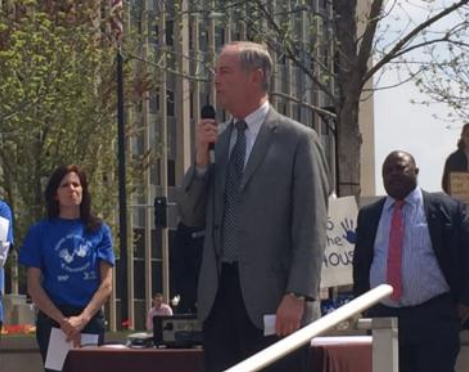
together the area's diverse organizations that in their various capacities serve the needs of our youngsters. Here are some other highlights of the annual event:

Juvenile Abuse and Neglect Court **Judge Albert Purham Jr** spoke eloquently in support of CASA — how volunteer advocates help him understand the children in his court and inform his decisions. .

## Concerned Citizens Gather to Raise Awareness and Support the Fight against Child Abuse



Juvenile Court Judge Albert Purham Jr.



Peoria County State's Attorney Jerry Brady



Juvenile Court Judge Timothy Cusack

Juvenile Delinquency Court **Judge Timothy Cusack** spoke about the shameful prevalence of child abuse and neglect in Peoria and how the organizations and concerned citizenry gathered for the ceremony must continue to fight to reduce the numbers of affected children.

State's Attorney **Jerry Brady** pointed out that the true measure of a society is what it does for the protection of the young and old. Sadly

for our society, he went on, child abuse and neglect statistics are staggering. "Every year in the US, up to 10 million children are exposed to domestic violence, of which only 3 million are reported. Every day in the US four children die from abuse and over three-quarters of those children are under age four."

The Salvation Army's **Captain Rachel Stouder**, the event's chaplain, asked the participants to engage in a moment of silence and

then led a prayer for the thousands of children across our land who are the victims of abuse and neglect.

After these somber moments, it was time for some rejoicing. Children from HOI United Way *Success by Six* program sang a delightful song for the crowd, who applauded in appreciation for the reminder of the innocence and wonder they supplied.

## CASA of Peoria County's "Human Foosball" a First for Peoria

### GOAL!



Photo courtesy Vickie Williams

Peoria Riverfront, June 5-6 — In an effort to raise both community awareness and funds, Board member **Greg Birkland** presented a novel idea to the CASA Board: Staging Peoria's first Human Foosball tournament on the Riverfront. "Actually," reports Greg, "it was my wife's idea. So kudos to her." The game (pictured at left) is a life-size version of the ever-popular "table soccer" that uses real people holding the long poles in place of the twirling figures connected by rods. Board President and

spouse **Gwenne and Alan Henricks** sponsored the event via the purchase and construction of two playing fields. Additional sponsors included **Menzoil Men's Grooming**, **Better Way Siding**, **G&D Integrated**, and **AMP Radio Group**. Advocate Supervisor **Scott Williams** helped organize and stage the event. Fourteen teams comprising over 80 people played in the 2-day tournament, fulfilling the Board's goals of increasing the community's awareness of CASA — and raising money.

## Volunteer Appreciation Dinner



Photos courtesy Jan Brown

*Par-A-Dice Hotel, April 22* — Board Members, advisors, donors, Judge Purham, several caseworkers, and staff gathered this evening to honor CASA of Peoria County volunteers — community members who so willingly donate their time and treasure in support of abused



and neglected children in the system. Thirty volunteers attended the fete in their honor, which included distribution of award certificates by their supervisors, a delicious buffet dinner, and talks by two of our experienced volunteers, **Deb Deeb** and **Deb Olsson**.

### Volunteers & Staff Attend State CASA Meeting

*Effingham, April 24* — Pam, Dominique and Scott were accompanied by eight volunteer advocates to attend the day-long Illinois CASA conference in Effingham, IL. **Marti Atwater, Thomas Bridgman, Cathy Dare, Kara Grove, Sue McGrew, Jill Minks, Diane Powers, and Lois Zaremba** attended plenary and break-out sessions that provided valuable in-service training on a range of practical subjects.



*Pictured at left, Libby Buchanan addressed the plenary session with a talk entitled "Hope, Heart and Heroes," in which she spoke of the issues confronting her as a survivor of child abuse and her subsequent career as a children's*

*New Orleans, May 31* — Author, advocate, and broadcast personality **Tavis Smiley** presented the keynote address before a packed ballroom at the annual CASA conference, recounting the inspirational story of his overcoming a deeply troubled childhood. He and his sister were placed in foster care after being severely beaten by their father. The assault on the youngsters resulted in hospitalization for multiple broken bones. His sister, one of four adopted siblings in a family of ten children, was permanently disfigured and never returned to the parents' home. "We could have used a CASA," Mr. Smiley said, later observing that CASAs "save the souls" of children in foster care. He went on to voice his opinion that

### Tavis Smiley Addresses a Difficult Childhood on Main Stage at Annual CASA Conference

"The entire nation is guilty of child neglect" through misplaced priorities and a broken juvenile justice system, and thus the pressing need to have a CASA advocate for every abused and neglected child.

Board members **Bob McCullum** and **Teri Cook** and volunteer **Becky Weber** attended this year's conference along with CASA staff. Notable among the highlights of the 2 1/2-day meeting was the talk by **Judge Darlene Byrne**, 2015 National CASA *Judge of the Year*. She stands out among judges because she believes so deeply in the CASA mission and values the volunteers' work in her Travis County, TX court room. Her court was deemed a national model for US juvenile courts in 2009.

## Leave a Loving Legacy

Planned Giving through your will: You can create a legacy of hope for vulnerable children through a planned gift to CASA of Peoria County.

### Bequests Through Your Will

A bequest to CASA of Peoria County is one of the most effective and simplest ways to make a lasting impact on the lives of vulnerable children. You may specify a specific amount or a percentage you wish to give. If you would like to make such a gift to CASA of Peoria County, you may include language similar to the following:

"I, [name], of [city, state, ZIP], give, devise and bequeath to CASA of Peoria County a nonprofit public benefit corporation having its principal office at 324 Main Street, Room 215, Peoria, IL 61602, [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] to be used for the furtherance of its charitable purposes in the discretion and at the direction of its Board of Directors for its unrestricted use and purpose."

If you are considering making a gift by bequest, please meet with your attorney to discuss the ramifications and, if appropriate, to update your will. Please let us know if you have included CASA of Peoria County in your estate planning.

CASA of Peoria County  
324 Main St. Room 215  
Peoria, IL  
61602  
(309)669-2939

We're on the Web!  
[www.casapeoria.org](http://www.casapeoria.org)  
[www.casaforchildren.org](http://www.casaforchildren.org)

### CASA of Peoria County gives Special Thanks to:



Caterpillar Foundation



Illinois Attorney General  
Violent Crime Victim  
Assistance Grant



A Member of the National  
CASA Association



### Bring A Voice to a Child

Yes, I would like to support a CASA Child for one year @ \$100 per month.

I would like to make a one-time gift:

\$25  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  \$1,000  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in learning more about CASA.

I would like to give of my time. Please contact me about being involved:

- Board Member
- CASA volunteer
- Other volunteer
- Help with Special Events
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_, IL

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

The best time to reach me is during \_\_\_\_ day or \_\_\_\_ evening.

Method of Payment:: Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Sec. code: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to:** CASA of Peoria County  
**Return to:** 324 Main Street, Room 215, Peoria, Illinois 61602  
**THANK YOU.**

**Make A Difference!**

## Our Mission

The mission of CASA of Peoria County is to advocate for abused and neglected children in Peoria County through the services of specially trained community volunteers.

Thanks to our Volunteer Training  
Meal Sponsors ...



... and to the excellent classroom facility  
at Advanced Medical Transport



**Advanced  
Medical Transport**  
of Central Illinois

*Save Lives. It's what we do.*

SAVE THE DATE FOR

# CASAblanca

an evening of *Dancing with the Stars*

A fundraiser to benefit CASA of Peoria County

Saturday, November 7th, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.  
at the Par-A-Dice Hotel Ballroom

21 Blackjack Boulevard, East Peoria

This is your opportunity to make a difference in  
the life of an abused or neglected child.

For more information, please call the CASA office  
at (309) 669-2939.

Or visit our website at [www.casapeoria.org](http://www.casapeoria.org).  
Check out the videos from last year's event!



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF PEORIA COUNTY

# Nine Hole, Par 3 Challenge & \$1 Million Hole-in-One Shootout

September 24, 2015

Registration: 2:30 to 3:15 p.m.

Shotgun Start: 3:30 p.m.

\$1 Million Shootout: Approximately 6:30 p.m.



**Country Club of Peoria**  
4700 Grandview Drive, Peoria Heights



Presenting Sponsor



Putting Sponsor

Support a great cause, enjoy a day of golf—and earn the opportunity to win \$1 million!

## Details & Prizes

### NINE HOLE, PAR 3 CHALLENGE

- Country Club of Peoria is converting the entire course to Par 3 play
- Field limited to first 25 teams comprised of four golfers per team. Parent-child teams welcome!
- \$250 per golfer

### HOLE-IN-ONE SHOOTOUT

- Top 5 teams with lowest scores from front nine and back nine (10 teams total) will select one individual from their team to compete in the shootout
- \$1 million grand prize awarded to the first finalist who sinks a hole-in-one

### EXTRAS!

- Free hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar at the club house (Plus, invite guests to join you at the hole-in-one party for only \$30/person)
- Putting contest as you come off the course
- Raffle and other prizes awarded at the event

For more information or to become a sponsor, contact: Jeff Doeden at 309-453-3633 or JeffDoed@hotmail.com

[www.casapeoria.org](http://www.casapeoria.org)



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